

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) A ceramic filter for molten metal filtration comprising a ceramic powder and fibers bonded by a network of graphitizable carbon fired in a non-oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature from 500°C to 1000°C, wherein the graphitizable carbon is produced from graphitizable carbon precursor present in an amount from 2% to 15% by weight.

2. - 3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A filter for molten metal filtration comprising fibers bonded by a network of graphitizable carbon fired in a non-oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature from 500°C to 1000°C, wherein the graphitizable carbon is produced from graphitizable carbon precursor present in an amount from 2% to 15% by weight.

5. -21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the ceramic powder is selected from a group consisting of zirconia, silica, alumina, brown fused alumina, magnesia, clay, talcum, mica, silicon carbide, silicon-nitride, graphite and mixtures thereof.

23. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the filter comprises graphitizable carbon produced from 5-15 wt% graphitizable carbon precursor, and wherein the graphitizable carbon is fired in a non-oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature from 500°C to 1000°C.

24. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the fibers are selected from a group consisting of ceramic fibers, glass fibers, organic fibers, carbon fibers, metal fibers and mixtures thereof.

25. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the filter comprises 1-10 wt% fibers.

26. (previously presented) The filter of claim 4, wherein the fibers are selected from a group consisting of ceramic fibers, glass fibers, organic fibers, carbon fibers, metal fibers and mixtures thereof.

27. (previously presented) The filter of claim 26, wherein the ceramic fibers are selected from a group consisting of alumina fibers, silica fibers, aluminosilicate fibers and mixtures thereof.

28. (previously presented) The filter of claim 26, wherein the organic fibers are selected from a group consisting of polyester fibers, polyacrylnitrile fibers, polyethylene fibers, polyamide fibers, viscose fibers, aramid fibers and mixtures thereof.

29. (previously presented) The filter of claim 4, wherein the filter comprises 1-10 wt% fibers.

30. (previously presented) The filter of claim 4, wherein the fibers have a length from 0.1-5 mm.

31. - 50. (withdrawn)